

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Greece

SUBJECT Recent Developments in IDEA

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**SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The leadership of IDEA considers that it failed during the recent political crisis to bring about the best political situation for that organization. At first it supported a straight Papandreou Government to be formed by the King and voted in, under pressure, by the Parliament. Later, when there was strong opposition from other political leaders, it supported a government of Venizelos, Papandreou and Tsaldaris. IDEA regards Papandreou as the relatively most capable and suitable man under present conditions. For this reason IDEA leaders came in contact with Papandreou just before the crisis, and expressed their confidence in him, stating that they had decided to exert pressure upon the other political leaders to support him.
2. The establishment of the post of Commander-in-Chief is regarded by IDEA as essential. Papagos is acceptable to IDEA but only with restricted powers because of a fear of a tendency toward dictatorship. IDEA believes that Sofoulis was imposed upon the present government by the Americans, something which it cannot explain.
3. The decisions mentioned above were taken unanimously by the Governing Bond of IDEA. Subsequently, however, suspicions arose that Lieutenant Colonel Gogousis had concurred only outwardly, and that he was really committed to a Papagos solution which would give Papagos the widest powers. These suspicions were intensified by the fact that Gogousis' followers allied themselves closely with Papagos and also by the fact that Gogousis himself assumed charge of the office of the Commander-in-Chief. The rest of the members of the Governing Bond are suspicious but have no proof of his guilt; in any event, he is considered suspect, and an opportunity to remove him is awaited. Lieutenant Colonel Karabotsos clashed with Gogousis and tendered his resignation; on the insistence of the other members of the Bond, however, he resumed his post.
4. After this blow, the Governing Bond, still insisting that the present solution is not suitable, has taken a new line; it is now counting only on the strength of IDEA itself, without, however, overlooking the potential value of Papandreou (as a front) in the future. The Governing Bond has decided to make a drive for unlimited membership, and has relaxed some of its requirements. All officers, accordingly, are to be offered membership. Already great activity has been noted on the part of the IDEA liaison officers in army units who talk openly to the other officers.

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5. The greatest possible development of the civilian section has recently been decided on, and certain members are already taking action in that respect, i.e., recruiting civilians. It is not yet clear who is responsible for these measures.*
6. A former member of the Governing Bond is presently making an official tour among the army units engaged in operations. Great interest in the condition of IDEA is being shown by members in the field.

25X1A6a * ~~SECRET~~ Comment: Such steps, especially the mass recruitment of members and the development of a civilian section, are equally capable of helping and hurting IDEA in the achievement of its real aims and purposes. The induction of all officers into IDEA would make it synonymous with the Army - a thing which with strong leadership, firm direction, and good organization would lead to the result that the Army would become IDEA; on the other hand, if proper measures and firm resolutions are not taken so that the situation will be handled so that the strength of IDEA will reach a peak when the time is ripe for action, then it is possible that IDEA will become the Army, that is, a force under the control of the usual military leaders, which would be the same as the dismemberment of IDEA. There is reason to believe that the members of the Governing Bond do not realize the consequences of their decisions. Gogousis is the least capable of all to consider them, unless he is being prompted, as probably is the case, by Papagos' group.

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